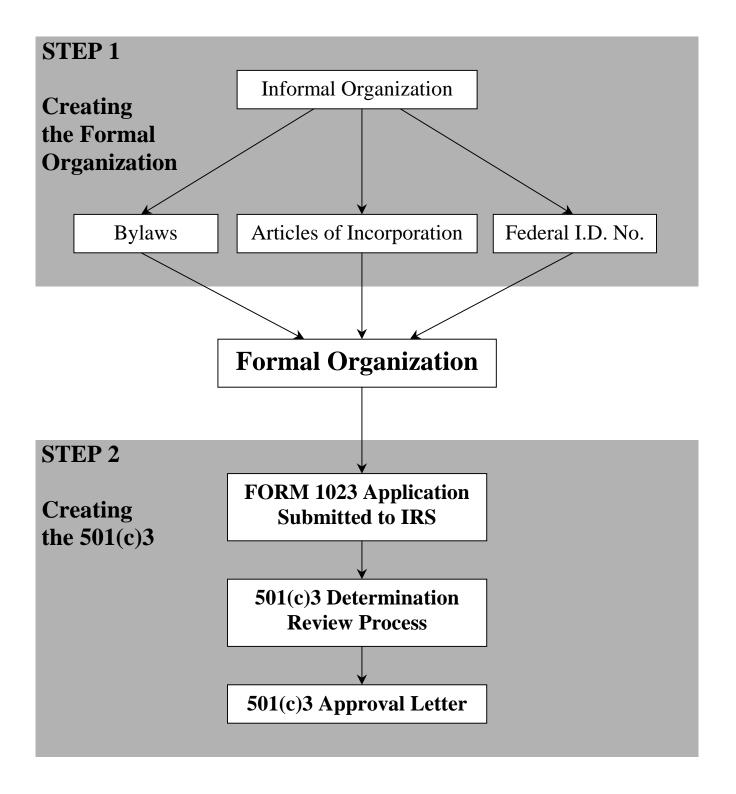
APPLICATION STEPS



MAJOR COMPONENTS OF A 5Ol(c)3 APPLICATION

Articles of Incorporation (approved by Missouri Secretary of State) Bylaws
Federal I.D. Number (Employer Identification Number)
501(c)(3) Application Form
Supporting Document

This section of the book will provide specific guidance in completing the forms to:

- a. Incorporate as a not-for-profit organization in Missouri (Pages 28-30).
- b. Apply for 501(c)(3) designation from the Internal Revenue Service (Pages 31-57)

One of the biggest points of confusion for many people is to assume that once they have successfully completed the filing of their organization's Articles of Incorporation with the Missouri secretary of state's office that they are now a 501(c)(3) organization. **This is not correct!** To become a 501(c)(3) organization, the second step of completing the Form 1023 Application and submitting it for approval by the IRS must be completed.

As noted in section 1 the process of incorporating as a not-for-profit corporation in the state of Missouri is often confused with the Federal 501(c)(3) application process. Incorporating in Missouri as not-for-profit does not automatically make an organization a 501(c)(3) corporation. The 501(c)(3) process is separate from the process of establishing the not-for-profit in Missouri. Getting incorporated in Missouri is a part of a first step.

Step 1 is moving from an often loose, informal structure to a formal legal structure with decision-making and accounting procedures. These procedures do not need to be complex, but they do need to be accurate and well maintained. We have already talked about creating bylaws which provide structure to the organization. The other two components of Step 1 are the Articles of Incorporation (which results from the state incorporation process and the Employer Identification number. The next few pages will take you through those processes.

Completing the three phases of Step 1 (Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and Employer Identification Number) transforms the informal group into a formal not-for-profit corporation. However, the organization is still not a 501(c)(3). Many of the necessary prerequisites for filing a 501(c)(3) are included in Step 1. Step 2 includes the actual process of filing the 501(c)(3) application.

Step 2 includes completing and filing the forms that the Internal Revenue Service will need to review in order to make the determination whether or not your not-for-profit organization qualifies for 501(c)(3) designation

The remainder of this workbook will take you through the steps of becoming incorporated in Missouri, filing for an Employer identification number, and preparing the application for 501(c)(3) designation by the Internal Revenue Service.

Completing the three phases of Step 1 (Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and Employer Identification Number) transforms the informal group into a formal notfor-profit corporation.

However, the organization is still not a 501(c)(3).

THE APPROVAL PROCESS

Completing the application process is often not the end of the line for the organization. In order to actually receive 501(c)(3) designation, the group will need to be approved by the Internal Revenue Service. The time it takes to actually receive an exemption once the application is filed can vary.

Usually a group can plan on three to six months before receiving approval. Occasionally a group will receive it much more quickly, but most often it takes at least three months.

Once the application is submitted, the IRS will assign the application to an agent for review. The IRS agent will study the application in order to determine that everything (including supporting documentation) is included in the application and to evaluate the application to see whether or not it meets the exemption criteria for a 501(c)(3).

In most instances a letter will be sent back to the group filing the application for the 501(c)(3) (specifically the person identified on Page 1 of Form 1023) asking for more information. The letter will almost always ask for more information. Sometimes there is something missing or filled out incorrectly and they will request the missing pieces. Normally they will ask for further clarification on something in the application.

They are most often interested in the responses to the narrative sections in part II. When determining who should be listed on the application, it is always a good idea to make sure the person who actually completed the application is listed as the contact person on the front of the application even if this person is not an officer in the corporation. This will help facilitate the process of getting the supporting documentation in a timely manner.

In addition to the request for information the, IRS will assign a due date. Please take this date seriously. If they do not receive the materials they requested by the due date, the IRS could cancel the application. The applicant would forfeit their filing fee and have to start over. If it is not possible to get the work done by the due date, please make sure that the contact person from the IRS reviewing the application is notified. They will normally grant an extension but it must be requested. The phone number of the contact person will be included in the letter.

As a matter of course, once the group receives a letter from the IRS it is a good idea to call that person and ask for clarification. Sometimes the letter requesting more information is vague or difficult to understand. Do not be afraid to call and ask for clarity. Pay close attention to what they say and then try to answer their questions as accurately as possible. They will then take the new information and continue reviewing the application.

Sometimes there will be a follow-up letter asking for even further clarification. In fact, this can occur two or three times. Try not to get discouraged. In most instances a group can work out the differences. Having said that, the IRS may request some changes to the organization in order to receive designation as a 501 (c)(3). They may suggest changing some of the accounting or funding schemes of the group. These requests need to be taken seriously.

If the process seems unfair or slow do not hesitate to contact the congressional representative in your area. They can be very helpful in expediting the process. Often, IRS representatives are very busy and do not place a high priority on reviewing 501(c)(3) applications. Congressional representatives (or their staffs) can be very helpful in getting clarification particularly in situations where a group feels it is not getting a fair hearing.

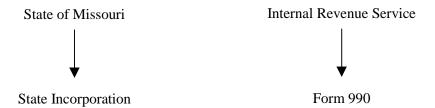
Help is out there for groups that feel this may be too big a project for its members. Sometimes it is free and sometimes it is not. For instance, an attorney's advice can be very helpful, particularly as a person to review the application to make sure that there are no glaring legal mistakes. There are attorneys who will do these kinds of projects for free, but it may take some time. Paying customers generally get attention first.

Don't assume that all attorneys are familiar with the 501(c)(3) application process. Be sure to ask them about their experience. The Missouri Bar Association may be helpful in finding attorneys who are interested in working with not-for-profits. In addition to attorneys, accountants will sometimes provide assistance to local groups applying for a 501 (c)(3).

Once a group has met all the requirements, it will receive a letter from the IRS notifying it that the group has been approved. This letter will also spell out the conditions of acceptance. Please read those conditions carefully and take them seriously. The 501(c)(3) tax exemption can be beneficial to an organization, but it is also a big responsibility.

ONCE YOU ARE APPROVED

Annual Reporting Requirements



Once your organization has been approved as a 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service, you will still need to maintain annual contact with both the Missouri Secretary of State Office and the Internal Revenue Service.

The Missouri Office of Secretary of State requires that your not-for-profit organization renew its state incorporation papers on an annual basis. The registered agent designated for the organization will receive an annual renewal form in the early summer. The form will need to be completed and filed with the secretary of state in order to maintain the organization's status as a not-for-profit in Missouri.

Likewise, the IRS uses Form 990 as its annual reporting requirements. If your organization is designated a 501(c)(3) corporation then the organization will need to file annual tax returns. There are exceptions to this rule (if the organization is very small) but for most groups they will file a Form 990 with the IRS in the spring of each year during the tax season.

Failure to complete both the state incorporation renewal form and/or the IRS Form 990 every year could place your state incorporation and/or 501(c)(3) status in jeopardy.

INCORPORATING IN MISSOURI

When your organization has Articles of Incorporation filed with the Secretary of State, it means your organization is recognized as a not-for-profit corporation in the state of Missouri.

If your application is accepted, your corporation will be exempt from paying taxes to the state of Missouri as long as your organization meets the state's criteria. A copy of your Articles of Incorporation should be included with your 501(c)(3) application.

Question 1 -The name of the corporation should appear exactly as you want it to appear on all your records and transactions. This name will identify your organization in all your dealings with the state of Missouri and the IRS.

Question 2 -The state wants to know who is going to benefit from the activities of your organization. Will the benefits be for the good of the public or will they advance the interests of a membership group or a specific segment of the population? This is important because all 501(c)(3) applicants must be "public" benefit corporations.

Question 3 -The answer here is usually "perpetual." If your organization will be temporary, then you will write in the date you want the corporation to end. If the intention is to create a permanent corporation then write in "perpetual". Writing "perpetual" does not mean the corporation must go on, it just means at the time of application there is no plan to terminate the corporation in the foreseeable future.

Question 4 -The registered agent is the person the secretary of state's office will communicate with on an annual basis. They need not be an officer of the corporation. However, they do need to be active in the organization. The registered agent will be the person who receives the Articles of Incorporation and will receive the annual renewal notice.

The annual renewal notice is a letter sent to all not-for-profit corporations asking if they want to continue operating as a corporation in the state of Missouri. This is usually a one-page questionnaire the registered agent needs to complete, sign and return to the secretary of state's office with the required fee. This is a simple but critical job for the not-for-profit corporation. If your organization is successful in obtaining 501(c)(3) status you must keep the annual registration up to date or jeopardize the not-for-profit status of the corporation.

Question 5 -The incorporators represent the corporation. They can be officers and/or board members. There should be at least three incorporators listed, but it is not necessary to include everyone who will serve on the board. In fact, it is probably more manageable to limit the number of incorporators to three or four because the application will include original signatures for all the incorporators.

Question 6 - If the corporation maintains a membership this should be marked "yes." If the corporation is the board of directors model and there is no other membership, it is not technically a membership organization, so "no" should be the response. How you answer this question will not affect whether or not you will qualify as a 5O1(c)(3), so feel free to answer either "yes" or "no."

Question 7 -Both the state of Missouri and the IRS are concerned about what will happen to the assets of the corporation should it decide to dissolve. Attached to the application (See page titled "Important notice for Missouri not-for-profit corporations.") should be a page that includes a list of statements that should be included with your Articles of Incorporation Application. One of the statements is called "Dissolution Clause." This paragraph must be included with your Articles of Incorporation if you eventually want 501(c)(3) status. For question 7 write "see attached dissolution clause" and submit a copy of the "Important notice for Missouri not-for-profits corporations" with your Articles of Incorporation

Question 8 –Please describe the purpose of your corporation. It should be a short statement that describes why you are forming this corporation. In addition, include the statement "see attached purpose clause" which refers to the purpose statement described in the paper called "Important notice for Missouri not-for-profit corporations." This purpose statement must also be included with the Articles of Incorporation if you want to apply for 501(c)(3) status.

Question 9 -Unless there is a specific date when you want your corporation to officially begin, leave this question blank. If you leave it blank, your corporation will begin on the date written on your copy of the Articles of Incorporation when they are returned by the Secretary of State.

Finally, have all the incorporators sign the application. You will need to do this twice because the secretary of state will need two original copies of the application. Make sure each application has a copy of the statements mentioned in questions seven and eight attached to them. Mail the two completed applications to the Secretary of State at the address on the top of the application. Don't forget to send the filing fee with your application. The amount of the fee will also be written on the front of the application. One copy of the Articles of Incorporation will be kept by the Secretary of State's office for its records and the other will be returned to you. Once the articles have the stamp of the Secretary of State on them then you are an official not-for-profit corporation in the state of Missouri.

When you submit your application for the 5Ol(c)(3), you will need to include a copy of the Articles of Incorporation with the application.

Make sure that the copy of the Articles of Incorporation you send to the IRS includes the page with the purpose statement and dissolution clause attached to it. Otherwise, the processing of your 501(c)(3) application will be delayed.



State of Missouri

Matt Blunt, Secretary of State

Corporations Division P.O. Box 778, Jefferson City, MO 65102 James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center 600 W. Main Street, Rm 322, Jefferson City, MO 65101

Articles of Incorporation of a Nonprofit Corporation

(To be submitted in duplicate with a filing fee of \$25)

The undersigned natural person(s) of the age of eighteen years or more for the purpose of forming a corporation under the Missouri Nonprofit Corporation Act adopt the following Articles of Incorporation:

(1)	The name of the corporation is
(2)	This corporation is a Benefit Corporation. (Public or Mutual)
(3)	The marie 1 of denotion of the companying is
(4)	The period of duration of the corporation is
	Name Address City/State/Zip
(5)	Name Address The name(s) and address(es) of each incorporator: Does the corporation have tembers? YESNO
	11156
(6)	Does the corporation have setnoers? YESNO
(7)	The assets of the corporation will be distributed on dissolution as follows:
(8)	The corporation is formed for the following purpose(s):
(9)	The effective date of this document is the date it is filed by the Secretary of State of Missouri, unless you indicate a
	future date, as follows:(Date may not be more than 90 days after the filing date in this Office)
In affirmation	n of the facts stated above,
Signed by Inc	corporator(s):

Corp. #52 (11/00)

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PERSONS FORMING MISSOURI NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATIONS

If you wish to obtain a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the IRS please review the following instructions.

INSTRUCTIONS

In order to come within the purview of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code you must include the statements below in your Articles of Incorporation as filed with the secretary of state. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR PURPOSE CLAUSE MUST INCLUDE MORE INFORMATION THAN STATED BELOW. THIS SAMPLE CLAUSE JUST SATISFIES IRS PURPOSES AND IS NOT SUFFICIENT BY ITSELF FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE. OUR OFFICE REQUIRES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN THE PURPOSE CLAUSE THAT INDICATES WHAT THE CORPORATION IS DOING. After the secretary of state has returned the articles to you, furnish a copy to the IRS when applying for the tax-exempt status.

<u>PURPOSE</u>: The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

<u>INUREMENT OF INCOME</u>: No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers or other private persons except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.

<u>LEGISLATIVE OR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES:</u> No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in or intervene (including the publishing or distribution of statements) in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

OPERATIONAL LIMITATIONS: Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)2 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

<u>DISSOLUTION CLAUSE:</u> Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the board of directors shall. after paying provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the board of directors shall determine.

Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the circuit court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization(s), as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

501c3 APPLICATION FORMS

- Form SS4 Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- Form 8718 User Fees for Exempt Organizations
- Form 872-C Consent Agreement (2 Originals)
- Form 1023 The Principal Application
- Schedules

Pages 32 - 57 will assist you in completing the forms listed above

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

In order to apply for a 501(c)(3) designation, a not-forprofit corporation will need an employer identification (EIN). The IRS will not consider an application that does not have an EIN even if the corporation has no employees and does not think it will ever have paid staff.

The SS-4 form is the application to be completed in order to receive the employer identification number. If a group needs the number quickly, it is possible to receive the number over the telephone. The telephone number for corporations filing in Missouri is (816) 926-5999. The application should be completed before calling the IRS for an employer identification number because they will ask for most of the information contained in the application. In addition, the SS-4 form will still need to be completed and filed with IRS in order to activate the employer identification number assigned to the corporation.

When the application is completed it should be sent to:

Internal Revenue Service Center Attn: Entity Control resource. Stop 6800 2306 E. Bannister Rd. Kansas City, MO 64999

FORM SS-4 APPLICATION

This is the same form any business or commercial entity needs to complete to get an employer identification number, so there are a lot of questions that are not necessary for a not-forprofit to complete.

Questions 1 - 6 - This is the standard name and address section. It asks for the name and address of the applicant. Remember the applicant is the not-for-profit corporation so the name should read exactly the same as the name that appears on the Articles of Incorporation that was filed with the state of Missouri.

In question three the "care of" person should be the person responsible for taking care of the taxes for the corporation. It could be the treasurer. However, because there is turnover in the treasurer's position, many times a not-for-profit will have someone either under contract or designated specifically to receive and manage tax information on behalf of the corporation.

Question 7 - The principal officer should be someone from the board. The most appropriate person is usually the president or chairperson of the corporation. Whoever is listed in question 7 will also need to provide his/her social security number.

Question 8a - Mark "Other nonprofit organization" and tell them what kind of a nonprofit corporation you are. Most nonprofits are applying as general nonprofits, so they will simply write "general" in the blank space. You can be more specific and state the specific type of nonprofit that you have formed.

Question 9 - Mark "Other "and write "creating a nonprofit" in the space provided.

Question 10 - The date the business started will be the date indicated on the Articles of Incorporation from the state of Missouri.

Question 11 - Most not-for-profits will run their accounting year concurrent with the calendar year. If this is the case for your organization, write December as the closing month

Question 14 - Describe the purpose of the organization. There is no need to be extensive, but it should reflect what was written for the same question in your application for the Articles of Incorporation. For instance, a housing group may state its purpose as: to provide housing opportunities. Keep it simple and specific. The corporation bylaws should also be a helpful resource.

Questions 15 and 16 are not applicable to most not-forprofits. However, if your organization will be selling services or products question 16 may apply.

Question 17 - In most cases the answer will be "no." Remember that this question refers to the not-for-profit entity, not the person who happens to be completing the application on behalf of the organization. However, if you are an older organization and are uncertain whether or not an employer identification number was issued to your organization in the past, call the number provided above and ask them to search for your number under the name of the corporation. This is a good idea if your group has been an active corporation in Missouri for several years and has just recently decided to file for 501(c)(3) tax status.

If you answer "yes" complete questions 17b and 17c.

Where they ask for the name and title they are asking for the name of the person who is completing the application on behalf of the corporation and his/her title with the corporation. Sign and date the application and send it to the address for the Internal Revenue Service Center provided above.

Remember, even if you telephone the IRS to file the application and receive the number over the phone, the application must still be mailed to the Internal Revenue Service Center at the above address.

Form	SS-4		on for Emp	-					EIN	
	April 2000)	(For use by en government	nployers, corporat agencies, certain	ions, partnei individuals,	rships, tru: and other	sts, estates s. See instr	, churche uctions.)	's,		
	ment of the Treasury Il Revenue Service		► Keep a	copy for you	ır records.	•			OMB No. 15	645-0003
	1 Name of applicant	(legal name) (see	instructions)							
learly.	2 Trade name of but	2 Trade name of business (if different from name on line 1) 3 Executor, trustee, "care of" name								
print clearly	4a Mailing address (street address) (room, apt., or suite no.) 5a Business address (if different from address)						addres	s on lines 4a	and 4b)	
Please type or	4b City, state, and ZIP code 5b City, state, and ZIP code									
ease 1	6 County and state	where principal bu	siness is located				•			
	7 Name of principal of	fficer, general partn	er, grantor, owner, o	or trustor—SSI	N or ITIN m	ay be require	ed (see ins	tructions	s) >	
8a	Type of entity (Check Caution: If applicant to Sole proprietor (SS	is a limited liability		☐ Estate	N of dec					
	Partnership	_	nal service corp.	_ • \	ninistrator					
	REMIC	_	al Guard	-4 -4 -	rporation (s	specify) -				
	☐ State/local government ☐ Church or church-		rs' cooperative	Tust	governmer	at/military				
	Other nonprofit org			Leg rederai	•	GEN if appl	icable)			
	☐ Other (specify) ►	garnzation (opcony)	100		(0.110.	O2.17 11 2PP.				
8b	If a corporation, name (if applicable) where in		gn county State	:			Foreigr	n countr	у	
9	Reason for applying (C	heck only one bo	(see instructions)	☐ Banking	purpose (s	specify purp	ose) ► .			
	☐ Started new busin	ess (specify type)	•) ▶	
				_	ed going b					
	Hired employees (Created a pension	plan (specify type) ▶			ecify type) [Other	(specify		
10	Date business started	or acquired (mon	ın, day, year) (see ii	nstructions)] '	11 Closing	monun or a	account	ing year (see i	ristructions)
12	First date wages or a first be paid to nonres						a withhol	ding ag	ent, enter date	income will
13	Highest number of em expect to have any er						Nonagri	cultural	Agricultural	Household
14	Principal activity (see	instructions) 🕨								
15	Is the principal busine If "Yes," principal pro	•	•					• •	Yes	□ No
16	To whom are most of Public (retail)	Other	(specify) ►					ısiness	(wholesale)	□ N/A
17a	Has the applicant even Note: If "Yes," please			on number fo	r this or an	y other busi	ness? .	• •	. ☐ Yes	□ No
17b	If you checked "Yes" Legal name ►	on line 17a, give a	pplicant's legal nar		name show de name		application	n, if diffe	erent from line	1 or 2 above
17c	Approximate date when				led. Enter p	previous em	ployer ide	ntification Previous		nown.
	penalties of perjury, I declare the penalties of perjury, I declare the penalties of penalties o		pplication, and to the best	of my knowledge	and belief, it is	true, correct, an	d complete.	(telephone number () hone number (incl)	
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Plea blan	ise leave Geo.		Ind.		Class	S	ze	Reason	for applying	
For	Privacy Act and Pape	rwork Reduction	Act Notice, see pa	age 4.	(Cat. No. 1605	5N		Form SS-4	4 (Rev. 4-2000

FORM 8718

The 8718 form is the bill. By completing this form an organization will learn how much money they will send the IRS for the filing fee. This form also lists the place that the application should be sent.

For Missouri applicants send the determination letter request Form (8718) and the 501)(c)(3) application (Form1023) to:

Internal Revenue Service P.O. Box 192 Covington, KY 41012-0192

Question 3 - Type of Request

This is where you determine whether or not your organization plans on raising a lot of money. Almost all groups filing for a 501(c)(3) will be choosing between "a" or "b."

Select "a" for a user fee designation if your organization anticipates that it will remain small and employ no staff. If there is any chance that the corporation will receive revenues beyond \$10,000 per year in its first four years, select "b." It may be more expensive in the short-term, but it will save the organization headaches later should it grow.

Answer "b" if the group anticipates revenues of more than \$10,000 per year. If a group intends to have any staff or pursue grants, it is a good idea to go with "b." If there is an opportunity to grow, an organization should anticipate that it will grow early in this process so that they can be sure to file the appropriate fee.

Answer "c" if the group is filing a "group exemption letter." This is very rare and usually includes a separate application process. All groups that are single, free-standing organizations (which is the target for this manual) will choose between "a" and "b."

The fee is non-refundable. If your organization does not receive the 501(c)(3) designation, you will not get your money back. Instead they will likely designate the organization as a different type of not-for-profit such as 501(c)(4) or 501(c)(6). They are still tax exempt but do not have some of the other benefits such as being able to offer tax credits to donors.

If there is any chance that the corporation will receive revenues beyond \$10,000 per year in its first four years then select "b". It may be more expensive in the short-term but will save the organization lots of headaches later should it grow.

Form **8718**(Rev. November 2000)
Department of the Treasury

User Fee for Exempt Organization Determination Letter Request

For IRS Use Only

Control number

Amount paid

Department of the Trea Internal Revenue Service		► Attach this form to determination letter application. (Form 8718 is NOT a determination letter application.)			
1 Name of organization				dentification Number	
3 Type of real a Initia An preceded A	equest I request for a determi exempt organization eding 4 years, or new organization that a	ination letter for: that has had annual gross receipts ave anticipates gross receipts averaging not m 3a, you must complete the Certification be	eraging not mon	Fee re than \$10,000 during the	
have	tify that the annual gro averaged (or are exp ation.	Certification oss receipts of	name of organi 00 during the p		
Sign b Initia • Ar 4 ye	ature I request for a determine exempt organization terms, or	Title ▶ ination letter for: that has had a what gross receipts averaginanticipates gross receipts averaging more	•		
Instruction The law require with each appli letter. The user above. For mor Proc. 2000-8, 2 Check the both the type of appsubmitting. If y must complete		states fleasily for the full amount user fee. If you do not include the amount, your application will be returned. Attach Form 8718 to you determination letter application.	d applic c of the Int full P.C our If y delive and F Int 20 Att	nd the determination letter cation and Form 8718 to: ernal Revenue Service D. Box 192 ovington, KY 41012-0192 ou are using express mail or a ery service, send the application form 8718 to: ernal Revenue Service 1 West Rivercenter Blvd. tn: Extracting Stop 312 ovington, KY 41011	
ch Check or Money Order Here					

Cat. No. 64728Z

Form **8718** (Rev. 11-2000)

FORM 1023 APPLICATION

Form 1023 is the principle application for 501(c)(3). The same application is used for other designations. The difference is in how the Internal Revenue Service reviews the application. Remember, they want to see an organization with an educational, charitable or religious purpose.

The purpose of this section will not be to review each question. There are too many and most are self-explanatory. In our review of this application we will look at the sections and questions that are not as easy to interpret and try to clarify them.

Part I – Identification of Application

- 1a. The name of the organization should be written exactly the same as it is on the Articles of Incorporation.
- 1b. It is a good idea to put someone's name here. This should be a person who has been involved in the preparation of the application. This will be the contact person for the IRS; the person who receives the official correspondence. In most cases, during the process of application review, the IRS agent will send a letter asking for clarification or supporting documents for the application. The person listed in 1b. should be someone who can answer an IRS agent's questions or find the information they are requesting. There is usually a deadline from the IRS for a response from the organization, so it is very important that the person listed here is intimately involved in the process.
- 3. This person may be the same person listed in 1b. If not, then the person listed should be someone who can answer questions about the application over the telephone. It is unlikely that the IRS will contact your organization by telephone for clarification on an aspect of your application. Usually they will send a letter to the person listed in 1b. requesting additional information.
- 4. This should be the same month reported in the application (SS4) for the Employer Identification Number.
- 5. This is the date reported on the Articles of Incorporation that you received from the Missouri

- Secretary of State when you applied for not-for-profit status in Missouri.
- 6. This is only a concern for not-for-profits associated with hospitals, educational institutions, childcare organizations, and those organizations forming charitable risk pools. All other types of 501 (c)(3) applicants can skip this question.
- 8. Almost all not-for-profits will need to file Form 990 federal tax returns with the IRS. It is similar to filing a personal tax return except that the forms are simpler and not-for-profit organizations generally won't have to pay a tax. One of the main purposes of the Form 990 is to make it possible for the IRS to review the sources of income and expenses of the organization in order to see whether or not the not-for-profit organization still meets the criteria for a 501(c)(3).
- 9. When a not-for-profit has annual receipts of not more than \$5,000 in a year, they can often be considered tax-exempt without filing the forms to be formally recognized as a 501 (c)(3) by IRS and would not have had to file tax returns in the past even if they were several years old. Most of the time new organizations will apply for the 501 (c)(3) within 15 months of incorporation, so this question is only relevant for older organizations that have not filed for 501 (c)(3) and were still required to file a tax return
- 10. Almost all organizations using this handbook as a reference guide will want to select "a" to designate themselves a corporation. Although it is the same application for a Trust and/or Association, there are some questions that will need to be answered a little differently than they would for an application that wants to be a corporation.

It is not normally advisable to file an application for a 501 (c)(3) unless there is a set of bylaws describing the organization and its functions. This is particularly true if the organization will handle money. In the bylaws the organization can clearly describe how money will be managed on behalf of the corporation. Without bylaws it may be difficult to maintain the accountability necessary to manage the record keeping necessary for a 501 (c)(3).

Form **1023** (Rev. September 1998) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

OMB No. 1545-0056

Note: If exempt status is approved, this application will be open for public inspection.

Read the instructions for each Part carefully.

A User Fee must be attached to this application.

If the required information and appropriate documents are not submitted along with Form 8718 (with payment of the appropriate user fee), the application may be returned to you.

Complete the Procedural Checklist on page 8 of the instructions.

Par	t I Identification of Applicant	ne instructions.
	Full name of organization (as shown in organizing document)	2 Employer identification number (EIN) (If none, see page 3 of the Specific Instructions.)
1b	c/o Name (if applicable)	3 Name and telephone number of person to be contacted if additional information is needed
	Address (number and street) Room/Suite	()
1d	City, town, or post office, state, and ZIP + 4. If you have a foreign address, see Specific Instructions for Part I, page 3. Web site address	4 Month the annual accounting period ends
	1010	5 Date incorporated or formed
1e	Web site address	6 Check here if applying under section: a ☐ 501(e) b ☐ 501(f) c ☐ 501(k) d ☐ 501(n)
7	Did the organization previously apply for congnition of exemption under this other section of the Code?	Code section or under any
8	Is the organization required to file Form 990 (or Form 990-EZ)? If "No," attach an explanation (see page 3 of the Specific Instructions).	N/A . Yes . No
	Has the organization filed Federal income tax returns or exempt organization If "Yes," state the form numbers, years filed, and Internal Revenue office whe	
10	Check the box for the type of organization. ATTACH A CONFORMED COPY OF DOCUMENTS TO THE APPLICATION BEFORE MAILING. (See Specific Instru also Pub. 557 for examples of organizational documents.)	
а	☐ Corporation—Attach a copy of the Articles of Incorporation (including ama approval by the appropriate state official; also include a copy	
b	☐ Trust— Attach a copy of the Trust Indenture or Agreement, including	g all appropriate signatures and dates.
С	Association— Attach a copy of the Articles of Association, Constitution, o declaration (see instructions) or other evidence the organiza document by more than one person; also include a copy of	tion was formed by adoption of the
	If the organization is a corporation or an unincorporated association that has not	<u> </u>
I de includ	colare under the penalties of perjury that I am authorized to sign this application on behalf of the abouing the accompanying schedules and attachments, and to the best of my knowledge it is true, corre	ove organization and that I have examined this application, ct, and complete.
Plea Sigi Her		d title or authority of signer) (Date)

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see page 7 of the instructions.

Cat. No. 17133K

PART II -- ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

These three questions cause more problems for organizations than any others on this application. In fact, many groups never really get past this point. The important thing is to answer the questions to the best of your ability and to send the application to the IRS. It is not a contest, so you won't score points by providing lots of details regarding the activities of your organization. Keep in mind that if they want more information they will ask, and they will usually be specific about what they want. It is best to be brief and to the point.

- 1. When answering this question focus on the activities that define the organization. For example, if a homeless shelter is applying for a 501 (c)(3), it is important that they detail the activities and services that they are providing the homeless. If the shelter also helped organize a neighborhood clean-up day once or twice but does not do it as a regular part of its mission, then it is not important to include. Focus on describing those activities directly related to the mission of the organization and where the resources of the organization are invested.
- Don't be afraid to list funding sources that are tentative. If there is reason to believe that someone will contribute, then list them as a funder. Later in the application there will be questions related to whether or not your funding sources will come from public or private resources.
- Many new organizations are confused by this question. Often, they do not have a formal fundraising program. This question is asked because an organization needs to think about how it intends to garner its resources. In order to maintain 501(c)(3) status an organization will need to be able to show how and where it received its funding. So, if a group intends to write grant so it should state that and discuss how it intends to pursue grants. If there will be memberships, explain how membership drives will be organized. If there is going to be a letterwriting campaign, explain how that will be organized and submit a sample of the solicitation letter. Keep this as simple and direct as possible. It is important that your fund raising goals are clear. They want to be certain that your fund raising plans are in-line with the mission of the organization.

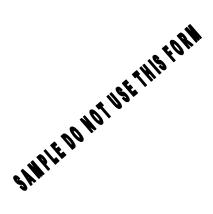
Listing a fund raising activity in this part of the application does not obligate you to that activity. The goal in this section is to let the IRS know what your plans are. They are aware that things can change. However, it is important that an organization maintain good records of its fund-raising activities.

Focus on describing those activities directly related to the mission of the organization and where the resources of the organization are invested.

Form 1023 (Rev. 9-98) Page **2**

Part II Activities and Operational Information

1 Provide a detailed narrative description of all the activities of the organization—past, present, and planned. **Do not merely refer to or repeat the language in the organizational document.** List each activity separately in the order of importance based on the relative time and other resources devoted to the activity. Indicate the percentage of time for each activity. Each description should include, as a minimum, the following: **(a)** a detailed description of the activity including its purpose and how each activity furthers your exempt purpose; **(b)** when the activity was or will be initiated; and **(c)** where and by whom the activity will be conducted.



- 2 What are or will be the organization's sources of financial support? List in order of size.
- 3 Describe the organization's fundraising program, both actual and planned, and explain to what extent it has been put into effect. Include details of fundraising activities such as selective mailings, formation of fundraising committees, use of volunteers or professional fundraisers, etc. Attach representative copies of solicitations for financial support.

PART II -- ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

- 4b. Most boards will not pay board members. In fact, if an organization is paying its board members, it is unlikely it will be approved. The organization can pay certain expenses but for most not-for-profits it is not a good idea to have a paid board. A not-for-profit can (and often does) have paid staff members. These staff people are generally answerable to the board of directors.
- 4c. Public officials can serve on not-for-profit boards. What the IRS wants to know is whether or not there is a position on the board of directors specifically for a public official. For example, a local housing corporation may have a person on the board who is also on the city council. The IRS wants to know if they are on the board as a representative of the city council or if they are someone who is a board member who happens to be a city council person. If they are representing another organization, you need to explain how that relationship works. Does the seat on the board go with the elected office? If so, how does that transition take place when a new person is elected to the city council? Sometimes a person will serve on a community board and get elected to a public office at a later date. It may not be necessary for that person to resign from the board (although it might be advisable for the organization not to be identified with any one political figure).

There are two principal concerns. One is that the organization is not considered a political organization. That is they are not in the business of supporting political candidates or causes. The other is to make sure that the organization is not simply an arm of the government. So, if there is someone serving on the board of directors as a representative of the government, it is important to explain why it is necessary to have this representative on the board.

- 4d. This question refers specifically to foundations making application for a 5O1(c)(3). Unless the organization is applying for 5O1(c)(3) status as a foundation, mark, "no." It is not recommended that an organization that wants to be organized as a foundation complete this application without legal assistance even though the application is the same. The way the application is evaluated is different and the financial components in section four become more complicated. **Professional assistance is strongly encouraged for gaining exempt status for a foundation.**
- 5. Sometimes a new organization is created by an older organization for a very narrow purpose but it is still

part of that other organization. For instance, a housing organization may host a house tour event. Over time that event becomes large and may require a separate budget, fund-raising strategy and staffing. The housing corporation may decide to create another organization just for the tour but may still want to control the staff and the budget. If something like this is the case, then answer "yes." If the board will be independent of another organization (even if it was started by another organization), answer "no."

If the organization is a chapter of a larger organization, was started by another organization, or maintains some affiliation with another organization, then answer this part "yes" and explain what the connection is to that other organization. The IRS wants to know who is making the decisions (particularly financial decisions) for the organization.

- 6. If another organization (other than another 501(c)(3) organization such as a government agency or a business) is providing any assistance, such as a telephone, office, funding, etc., mark this one "yes." It is important that all relationships with other organizations involving the sharing of resources are explained.
- 7. If another organization provided resources to help this new organization get started, note this fact. This is particularly important if the assistance was in the form of a loan. In addition, sometimes a new group is started to support the efforts of another organization. If there are formal links to another organization, it may be a good idea to see if there are any expectations from the new organization.

Form 1023 (Rev. 9-98) Page 3 Part II Activities and Operational Information (Continued) Give the following information about the organization's governing body: a Names, addresses, and titles of officers, directors, trustees, etc. **b** Annual compensation c Do any of the above persons serve as members of the governing body by reason of being public officials If "Yes," name those persons and explain the basis of their selection or appointment. ☐ Yes ☐ No If either of these questions is answered "Yes," explain. Does or will the organization directly or indirectly engage in any of the following transactions with any political organization or other exempt organization (other than a 501(c)(3) organization): (a) grants; (b) purchases or sales of assets; (c) rental of facilities or equipment; (d) loans or loan guarantees; (e) reimbursement arrangements; (f) performance of services, membership, or fundraising solicitations; If "Yes," explain fully and identify the other organizations involved. If "Yes," explain and identify the other organization. Include details concerning accountability or attach copies of reports if any have been submitted.

PART II -- ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

- 8. New organizations may not have many resources. However, if a building (or office space), computer, office supplies, telephone or anything else was donated to the organization and it is being used by the organization to conduct its business, it needs to be listed in this space.
- 9. This may be tough to judge for a new organization. If there is no plan at the time of the application to have a tax-exempt bond issue, mark this "no." If the organization is planning to work with local government on certain development projects, it is a good idea to visit with the government officials to see if a bond may be a possibility in the near future as a funding source for a project.
- 10a. Answer "yes" if you believe you will have someone else manage your facilities. If you don't have any facilities or if you will manage them yourselves answer "no"
- 10b. Answer "yes" if you rent space for your organization or have a long term lease on a facility. Answer "no" if you don't have any leases or contracts. Answering "no" to this question does not mean that your organization can't enter into contracts or leases at a later time. They are interested in what kind of obligations you have at the time of your application.
- 11. If the organization is a membership organization, answer these questions as completely as possible. Parts "a" and "c" should be part of the bylaws. If the organization has not thought through some of these issues, it is advisable to hold off on making the 501(c)(3) application until they have been answered for the organization. Sometimes an organization is not sure whether it is a member organization or not. Some community groups and others are open to people in the community but there are no requirements for belonging to the organization. A group may be a membership organization even if there are no dues. If the membership plays any role in decision-making (even if it is simply to elect a decision-making board), then it is a membership organization. The IRS wants to make sure that if you are a membership organization that you are not establishing membership criteria that discriminate based on race, religion, ethnic origin or other protected classes. In addition, they want to be certain that the services of the organization are not provided solely to the members.

- 12. If the organization is going to be providing services to specific groups of people, it needs to be sure that the policies for selecting who will receive services is fair to everyone who would be eligible for those services. If there are going to be specific criteria for participating in a program, those criteria must not put anyone at a disadvantage based on their race, religion, ethnic origin or other protected classes.
- 13. Politics and the role of a 501(c)(3) are watched very closely. A 501(c)(3) should not support individual candidates. They are permitted to provide education on a subject that may be included in a ballot initiative provided it is related to the purpose of the organization and it does not spend a large percent of its time and resources on this endeavor.
- 14. Endorsing a campaign, promoting or opposing a candidate, or promoting or opposing a ballot initiative is intervening in a political campaign. A 501(c)(3) will need to be very careful about getting involved in politics. A 501 (c)(3) cannot commit a substantial portion of its resources to political campaigns or causes. It is also important to note that if a member of the organization decides to get involved in a political campaign, they must not do so on behalf of the organization. They can do it in another capacity but not on behalf of the 501(c)(3) corporation.

Members of the organization will need to be sure to keep their political activities separate from their charitable activities. Form 1023 (Rev. 9-98) Page 4 Part II **Activities and Operational Information (Continued)** What assets does the organization have that are used in the performance of its exempt function? (Do not include property producing investment income.) If any assets are not fully operational, explain their status, what additional steps remain to be completed, and when such final steps will be taken. If none, indicate "N/A." 9 Will the organization be the beneficiary of tax-exempt bond financing within the next 2 years?. 🗌 Yes 🗀 No 10a Will any of the organization's facilities or operations be managed by another organization or individual ☐ Yes ☐ No If either of these questions is answered "Yes," attach a copy of the contracts and explain the relationship between the applicant and the other parties. 11 Is the organization a membership organization? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "Yes," complete the following: a Describe the organization's membership requirements and attach a schedule of membership fees and dues. b Describe the organization's present and proposed efforts to attract members and attach a copy of any descriptive literature or promotional material used for this purpose.
 c What benefits do (or will) the members receive in exchange or their payment of dues? 12a If the organization provides benefits, services, or products, are the recipients required, or will If "Yes," explain how the charges are determined and attach a copy of the current fee schedule. b Does or will the organization limit its benefits, services, or products to specific individuals or If "Yes," explain how the recipients or beneficiaries are or will be selected. If "Yes," explain. Also, give an estimate of the percentage of the organization's time and funds that it devotes or plans to devote to this activity. Does or will the organization intervene in any way in political campaigns, including the publication or If "Yes," explain fully.

PART III -- TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The IRS expects that most not-for-profit corporations will apply for 501(c)(3) status at some point in their organization's history, particularly if the organization plans to handle financial resources. Questions one through seven are an attempt to find out why a group has not filed and whether or not it is still eligible to file. If your group is older and has not filed for a 501(c)(3), don't get too worried. Most not-for-profit organizations are still eligible.

- 1. Most groups will be new enough to answer this question "yes." If not, then answer question 2.
- 2. If you don't meet the criteria of a, b, or c; don't get too worried yet. Go to question 3.
- 3. If the organization is less than 27 months old, check "yes" to this question. Keep in mind that the age of the organization refers to its time as a formal corporation. There are many groups that are older but did not formally incorporate until they decided to file for a 501(c)(3).
- This will generally cover most organizations that are older than 27 months. "Reasonable action and good faith" generally means that if the IRS has not contacted the organization about filing for a 501C3 then the organization can be automatically exempt from the time requirements for filing the application. This will cover just about everyone. However, an organization older than 27 months that has not filed and has been contacted by the IRS for not filing can still be eligible if they didn't file the application because of intervening events beyond their control; they acted in good faith but were not aware of the filing requirements; did not file because they were advised by the IRS not to file; or, they did not file because a qualified tax professional failed to file the forms or failed to see to it that the organization filed the forms.
- 5. If for some reason an organization cannot be covered by the "reasonable and good faith" section then it can still qualify if the organization is willing to start over as a new organization beginning from the time the application is filed as long as the organization would not be liable for taxes to the Internal Revenue Service. Please keep in mind that if you decide to do this that it will impact how you answer a later question (Part III, question 10.) It may be a good idea to refer to question 10 in Part III, before deciding whether or not to answer "yes" to question 5 and completing question 6. If the organization would like

- a definitive ruling (see question 10), it is a good idea to see if you can answer 4 "yes" and skip questions 5 and 6. If an organization is comfortable with an advance ruling, it is fine to answer "no" to question 4, and "yes" to question 5, and answer question 6. (See page 48 for discussion on advance and definitive rulings.)
- This is kind of an odd question to figure out. What they want you to do is if you answer question 5; "yes" then the IRS wants you to file the paperwork for a not-for-profit corporation that would cover the tax liabilities of the organization's history. What this means is that from the time you file the 1023 application you are acting like a brand new organization beginning the date the IRS receives your application. However, since you have been operating as a not-for-profit corporation but never filed for a 501(c)(3) in order to be a not-for-profit that was tax exempt you have to have on file something that covers your tax liability prior to filing for the 501 (c)(3). So, they want you to send in the first page of the 1024 form, which is the form the other not-forprofit corporations who don't intend to be 501 (c)(3) corporations have to file with their applications. These are organizations like Labor Unions and Business Associations that are not-for-profits but aren't eligible to give donors tax deductions for their contributions. If an organization decided to go this route, they must remember that contributions they received up to the time the application for the 501(c)(3) was filed were not tax deductible.

Form	n 1023 (Rev. 9-98)	Page 5
Par	rt III Technical Requirements	
1	Are you filing Form 1023 within 15 months from the end of the month in which your organization was created or formed?	es 🗌 No
2	If one of the exceptions to the 15-month filing requirement shown below applies, check the appropriate box and to question 7. Exceptions—You are not required to file an exemption application within 15 months if the organization:	l proceed
	 a Is a church, interchurch organization of local units of a church, a convention or association of churches, integrated auxiliary of a church. See Specific Instructions, Line 2a, on page 4; b Is not a private foundation and normally has gross receipts of not more than \$5,000 in each tax year; or 	or an
	c Is a subordinate organization covered by a group exemption letter, but only if the parent or supervisory of timely submitted a notice covering the subordinate.	rganization
3		es 🗌 No
	If "Yes," your organization qualifies under Regulation section 301.9100-2, for an automatic 12-month extension of the 15-month filing requirement. Do not answer questions 4 through 6. If "No," answer question 4.	
	If "No," answer question 4.	
4	under the "reasonable action and good faith" and the "no prejudice to the interest of the government"	es 🗆 No
	If "Yes," give the reasons for not filing this application within the 27-month period described in question 3. See Specific Instructions , Part III, Line 4, before completing this item. Do not answer questions 5 and 6.	
	If "No," answer questions 5 and 6.	
5	If you answer "No" to question 4, your organization's qualification as a section 501(c)(3) organization can be recognized only from the date this application is filed. Therefore, do you want us to consider the application as a request for recognition of exemption as a section 501(c)(3) organization from the date the application is received and not retroactively to the date the organization was created or formed? Yes	es 🗌 No
6	If you answer "Yes" to question 5 above and wish to request recognition of section 501(c)(4) status for the period with the date the organization was formed and ending with the date the Form 1023 application was received (date of the organization's section 501(c)(3) status), check here ▶ □ and attach a completed page 1 of Form application.	the effective

PART III -- TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- 7. It is important to note that if the organization will be operating as a foundation, it should get some legal advice regarding the filing of the application. Since the financial management requirements may be significantly more rigorous for a foundation, it is an excellent idea to have an attorney or accountant at least review the application. Your answers to questions 7 and 8 will help the IRS determine how to review your application. If you do not want your application reviewed as a foundation, mark "no" for both questions 7 and 8.
- 8. Schedule E is included in the 1023 application if your organization wants to be a private operating foundation. Again the process of applying to be a 501 (c)(3) foundation is beyond the scope of this workbook. It is essential that groups intending to do so get legal and financial assistance.
 - If your organization is not going to be a foundation, the IRS will want to know how to classify the organization. Certain classifications need to submit additional paperwork with their application. If your organization is in a classification that needs a supplemental schedule such as a health care or religious organization, it will say so next to the classification. If there is no schedule listed next to the classification that best describes your organization, you will not need to complete a schedule. All the schedules are included in the 1023 application.
- 9. Most community organizations that are not foundations will answer this question with "h", "i", or "j". If most of the organization's resources come from publicly supported organizations or government, select "h". If less than one-third of the organization's resources come from publicly supported organizations or government, select "i". If you aren't sure yet what the breakdown will be, select "j."

If your organization is not going to be a foundation then the IRS will want to know how to classify the organization.

Certain classifications need to submit additional paperwork with their application.

orm 10	23 (Rev.	9-98)	Page 6
Part		Technical Requirements (Continued)	
7 is	Yes	rganization a private foundation? (Answer question 8.) (Answer question 9 and proceed as instructed.)	
	Yes	nswer "Yes" to question 7, does the organization claim to be a private operat (Complete Schedule E.)	ing foundation?
Α	fter a	nswering question 8 on this line, go to line 14 on page 7.	
b	ox bel	nswer "No" to question 7, indicate the public charity classification the organizow that most appropriately applies: RGANIZATION IS NOT A PRIVATE FOUNDATION BECAUSE IT QUALIFIES:	
a 		As a church or a convention or association of churches (CHURCHES MUST COMPLETE SCHEDULE A.)	Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(i)
b		As a school (MUST COMPLETE SCHEDULE B.)	Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)
c		As a hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization, medical research organization operated in conjunction with hospital (These organizations, except for hospital service) organizations, MUST COMPLETE SCHEDULE C.)	Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)
-		As a governmental unit described in section (0)(c)(1).	Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(v)
e		As being operated solely for the benefit of or in connection with, one or more of the organizations described in a through d, g, h, or i (MUST COMPLETE SCHEDULE D.)	Section 509(a)(3)
f		As being organized and operated exclusively for testing for public safety.	Section 509(a)(4)
g		As being operated for the benefit of a college or university that is owned or operated by a governmental unit.	Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)
h		As receiving a substantial part of its support in the form of contributions from publicly supported organizations, from a governmental unit, or from the general public.	Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
ī		As normally receiving not more than one-third of its support from gross investment income and more than one-third of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions (subject to certain exceptions).	Section 509(a)(2)
j		The organization is a publicly supported organization but is not sure whether it meets the public support test of h or i . The organization would like the IRS to decide the proper classification.	Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) or Section 509(a)(2)

If you checked one of the boxes a through f in question 9, go to question 14. If you checked box g in question 9, go to questions 11 and 12.

If you checked box h, i, or j, in question 9, go to question 10.

PART III -- TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

This is one of the most important parts of the application. How the IRS reviews your application is heavily influenced by your answers to questions 10-14. Please pay close attention to the questions and think very carefully about how you want to answer them for your organization. Read through all the questions on this page before you begin to answer any of them. You may change your mind about how to answer question 10 after you read through the other questions.

10. A definitive ruling means that you want the IRS to review the application and based on the materials submitted with the application to decide whether or not the application should be accepted. An advance ruling differs in that the IRS will review your application and if they think that the organization meets the requirements of a 5Ol(c)(3) they will issue a determination letter that says "yes, we believe this organization meets the basic requirements of a 501 (c)(3) but we want to watch it for a couple of years to determine whether or not they should be granted the status permanently. At the end of the time period prescribed in the letter, if the IRS does not see anything unusual, the organization automatically is granted the 5Ol(c)(3) status permanently. In the case of an advance ruling the organization has all the rights and responsibilities of a 5Ol(c)(3) during the review period. In fact, a not-for-profit may be able to act as a 5Ol(c)(3) beginning at the time the application is submitted. If a funder needs a tax number, you can give them the employer identification number that the organization was assigned after filing the SS 4 form. In fact, this is the number that needs to be provided all funders who would like to receive the tax benefits for contributing to a charitable organization.

It is generally advisable for organizations to go with an advance ruling. It is possible that the review agent will more closely scrutinize the application for a definitive ruling. In addition, it is a good idea for a newer organization to allow for that additional scrutiny as a check on the financial record keeping of the organization. Some people who have worked around not-for-profits for a long time believe that it is rare for the IRS to follow-up with an organization once it has granted an advance ruling. For a new organization this is really the only way to go. It will make the process of being granted 501(c)(3) status much simpler and maybe even faster.

11. Unusual grants are contributions or grants to the organization that don't occur regularly. They are normally funds that an organization will only receive

- one time such as a bequest or for a short-time, such as a 2 year grant for a specific project.
- 12. This can be a test of an organization's record keeping system. The IRS wants fairly detailed information about the sources of your organization's funding. If someone is contributing an amount larger than 2% of the budget, they want a list of those contributors. If your organization has not been collecting this type of information and are interested in a definitive ruling, you may need to reconsider at this point. It would also be a good idea to revamp your record keeping to note donors, dates that donations were made and the amounts.
- 13. This is another test of the record keeping of an organization. If you have a small organization with good record keeping and fairly small contribution amounts, applying for a definitive ruling by selecting either question 12 or 13 may make sense for your organization. However, for most groups an advance ruling makes the most sense.
- 14. Go through the list and select any of the items that might apply to the organization. In the case of a community organization it is likely that the answer will be "no" for each item. If one or more of the items in this question are answered "yes," complete the corresponding schedule (an additional one-page form) in the back of the instruction booklet.

Form	1023 (Re	ev. 9-98)			Page 7
Par	t III	Technical Requirements (Continued)			
10	Ye	checked box h, i, or j in question 9, has the organization completed a tax year of at least 8 mc s—Indicate whether you are requesting: A definitive ruling. (Answer questions 11 through 14.) An advance ruling. (Answer questions 11 and 14 and attach two Forms 872-C completed and p—You must request an advance ruling by completing and signing two Forms 872-C and a rm 1023.	signe	ed.)	hem to the
11	Exper	organization received any unusual grants during any of the tax years shown in Part IV-A, Stater ises , attach a list for each year showing the name of the contributor; the date and the amount o ption of the nature of the grant.			
12	lf you	are requesting a definitive ruling under section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) or (vi), check here ▶ □ and:			
	Attach	2% of line 8, column (e), Total, of Part IV-A	unit o	r "pul on lir	olicly ne 12a
	For ear page For ear payer payer	are requesting a definitive ruling under section 509(a)(2), which here ▶ ☐ and: ach of the years included on lines 1, 2, and 9 of Part W. Attach a list showing the name of and each "disqualified person." (For a definition of "disqualified person," see Specific Instructions , 13.) ach of the years included on line 9 of Part IV A attach a list showing the name of and amount re (other than a "disqualified person") whose ta ments to the organization were more than \$5,000 r" includes, but is not limited to, any organization described in sections 170(b)(1)(A)(i) through (vinter than a gency or bureau.			
14	Indica only t	te if your organization is one of the following. If so, complete the required schedule. (Submit hose schedules that apply to your organization. Do not submit blank schedules.)	Yes	No	If "Yes," complete Schedule:
	Is the	organization a church?			Α
	Is the	organization, or any part of it, a school?			В
	Is the	organization, or any part of it, a hospital or medical research organization?			С
	Is the	organization a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization?			D
	Is the	organization a private operating foundation?			E
	Is the	organization, or any part of it, a home for the aged or handicapped?			F
	is the	organization, or any part of it, a child care organization?			G
	Does	the organization provide or administer any scholarship benefits, student aid, etc.?			Н
	Has t	he organization taken over, or will it take over, the facilities of a "for profit" institution?			<u> </u>

PART IV -- FINANCIAL DATA

The financial section tends to be another section that generates lots of fear. In this application there are two financial reports required. One is a budget worksheet and the other is a balance sheet. The first is the budget

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

If a group is new, it is much simpler to complete the budget sheet because the group needs only to complete the current year and propose a budget for the next two years. If the group is older, it requires the current year and previous years, going back three years. This can be a test for many not-for-profits that have not maintained accurate record-keeping systems. As a word of advice, complete the form as best you can and make sure the record keeping improves.

Questions 1 through 13 refer to income for the organization

Most of these are self-explanatory. The following are some notes regarding those points that most often give people problems with this section.

- 1. These are funds received from grants and contributions that are not unusual. They could be funds received from a government agency (unless the funds are being provided to the organization in order for the organization to provide a specific public purpose), grants from another organization or a foundation. The tricky part for grants is whether they should be included here or in number 12 under unusual grants. The rule of thumb is that if the money is something that comes in fairly reliably from a funder and is not a one-shot deal or part of a temporary (even multi-year) program then it should be listed here.
- 4. Income from an organization's unrelated exempt activity is funds that are earned but not because of a service provided related to the organization's purpose. For instance, an organization may have a large meeting room that it will rent for events. The money earned on the room rental should be listed here.
- 9. This may include income from services provided and monies earned from fund-raising that have not yet been reported (except for unusual grants). Services may include charges assessed for participating in a program. Make sure to include an estimate of in-kind assessments. For instance, a shelter may require that program participants contribute a portion of their

- food stamps. A dollar value should be estimated for these contributions.
- 12. Unusual grants are those funds that are unusual for the organization. If a contribution is a one-time deal (such as a bequest), or is temporary (like a three-year grant from a foundation for a specific project), or significantly changes the annual income for one year (such as sponsors for a one-time event) then list them here. These are contributions not normally considered part of the regular budget

Questions 14 through 23 relate to expenses.

This can be tricky if the records aren't the best. If the records are not good and receipts are not available, estimate these expenses as best you can. However, from now on the records must be accurately kept and archived.

- 15. They want you to list grants and contributions you made to other organizations.
- 16. Compensation of officers is closely scrutinized. Please give them complete information, keeping in mind that board members and officers are supposed to be donating their talents. Expenses can be reimbursed but must be carefully documented.
- 18. List the salaries and wages for all staff. If you are projecting, anticipate what you will spend on salaries. Remember that benefits also count as salary.
- 21 If the organization has a resource that can be depreciated such as a building, that depreciation should be listed here.
- 22 List all other expenses that the organization currently has commitments to pay as well as those they can anticipate.

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Part IV Financial Data

Complete the financial statements for the current year and for each of the 3 years immediately before it. If in existence less than 4 years, complete the statements for each year in existence. If in existence less than 1 year, also provide proposed budgets for the 2 years following the current year.

			A. Statement of	of Revenue and	Expenses		
			Current tax year	3 prior tax year	s or proposed bu	dget for 2 years	
	1	Gifts, grants, and contributions received (not including unusual grants—see page 6 of the instructions).	(a) From	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e) TOTAL
	2	Membership fees received				<u>-</u> .	
	3	Gross investment income (see instructions for definition)					
	4	Net income from organization's unrelated business activities not included on line 3					
	5	Tax revenues levied for and			1		
		either paid to or spent on behalf					
Revenue	6	of the organization Value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge (not including the value of services or facilities generally furnished the public without charge)			103		
	7	Other income (not including gain			181		
		or loss from sale of capital			644.		
	_	assets) (attach schedule)		 	1195		
	8	Total (add lines 1 through 7)		10.	19		
	9	Gross receipts from admissions, sales of merchandise or services, or furnishing of facilities in any activity that is not an unrelated business within the meaning of section 513. Include related cost of sales on line 22		MPLEDONO			
	10	Total (add lines 8 and 9)					
	l	Gain or loss from sale of capital assets (attach schedule)					
		Unusual grants					
	14	Fundraising expenses					
		Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts paid (attach					
	16	schedule)					
Expenses	17	Compensation of officers, directors, and trustees (attach					
ě	10	schedule)		1			
EX		Interest					
		Occupancy (rent, utilities, etc.)					
		Depreciation and depletion					
	22	Other (attach schedule)			-		
	23	Total expenses (add lines 14 through 22)					
	24	Excess of revenue over expenses (line 13 minus line 23)					

PART IV -- FINANCIAL DATA

In this section the IRS wants to get a sense of what the organization is worth at the time of the application. The IRS wants to see the types of resources that are available to the organization as well as the liabilities that the organization has acquired.

Balance Sheet

Many of the items listed here are self explanatory. Many newer organizations are not likely to have much money or many liabilities. They have not had time to acquire either assets or liabilities. For these groups this should be fairly straight forward and simple.

- The IRS wants to know how much money is available to the organization in cash, checking and savings accounts.
- If a potential donor has pledged money but has not yet given it to the organization, include it in line two "accounts receivable."
- 3. If your organization owns anything of value that it intends to sell, include the value of these items.
- 4. This is where the organization should list the value of stocks or bonds that someone has pledged to your organization. These would be stocks pledged but not yet received. Sometimes stocks are left to organizations from an estate or trust that may take time to transfer to the organization. In this case the organization knows it will receive the resources, but the transfer has not been completed at the time this application is filed.
- 5. If the organization owns stocks, they need to be listed. Include the number of shares and their value at the time this application is submitted.
- 6. This might be an issue for an organization involved in housing. If the organization holds a mortgage on a property, they should include the value of that mortgage(s) here.
- 10. List all assets that you own that may have value.
- 12. List the bills (such as rents and utilities) that may not have been paid yet at the time the balance sheet was completed.
- 13. This includes contributions that have been pledged or committed at the time of the application but have not been paid.

- 14. If you own a property or vehicle that you are making payments on, please list the amounts of the payments and list the schedule. They want to get a sense of your debt load.
- 15. List all your other debts or liabilities.

The IRS wants to see the types of resources that are available to the organization as well as the liabilities that the organization has acquired.

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Page 9

Part IV	Financial	Data	(Continued)
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	B. Balance Sheet (at the end of the period shown)		Current tax year
	Assets		Date
1	Cash	1	
2	Accounts receivable, net	2	······································
3	Inventories	3	
4	Bonds and notes receivable (attach schedule)	4	
5	Corporate stocks (attach schedule)	5	
6	Mortgage loans (attach schedule)	6	·
7	Other investments (attach schedule)	7	
8	Depreciable and depletable assets (attach schedule)	8	
9	Land	9	
10	Other assets (attach schedule)	10	
11	Mortgage loans (attach schedule) Other investments (attach schedule) Depreciable and depletable assets (attach schedule) Land Other assets (attach schedule) Total assets (add lines 1 through 10)	11	
	Liabilities		
12	Accounts payable	12	
13	Contributions, gifts, grants, etc., payable	13	
14	Mortgages and notes payable (attach schedule)	14	
15	Other liabilities (attach schedule)	15	
16	Total liabilities (add lines 12 through 15)	16	
	Fund Balances or Net Assets		
17	Total fund balances or net assets	17	
18	Total liabilities and fund balances or net assets (add line 16 and line 17)	18	
If th	ere has been any substantial change in any aspect of the organization's financial activities since the wn above, check the box and attach a detailed explanation .	e en	d of the period

FORM 872 - C

This form needs to be completed by organizations that decided that they want the IRS to give them an advance ruling (please see page 48, question 10 regarding advance rulings and definitive rulings). Organizations that will be filing for an advance ruling will need to prepare two original, signed copies of this form.

Completing the form is a fairly simple process. The ending date of the first tax year would be the year ending the first time that a form 990 (the annual tax return for a not-for-profit organization) was filed. If the organization has never filed a 990 form, the ending date of the first year is the end of the current fiscal year (whenever that is for the organization). For most organizations the fiscal year is likely to be the end of the current calendar year unless the bylaws specify a different fiscal year.

The form 872-C is essentially a permission slip. By signing and submitting the form with the 1023 application the organization is telling the IRS that they can monitor the organization for a fixed period of time to make sure that they will be operating as a 501(c)(3). In return the IRS will grant the organization all the rights and privileges of a 501(c)(3).

From a practical standpoint this changes very little for the organization applying for 501(c)(3). They will still review the application and make a determination. The difference is that instead of receiving a letter that says that the organization is a 501(c)(3) they will receive a letter that states they are provisionally granted 501(c)(3) status for the following time period.

At the end of the time period, unless the IRS contacts the organization with questions about the operation of the organization, the organization will receive a letter from the IRS that changes the organization from provisional to full 501(c)(3) status. There are no differences in rights or responsibilities except that the IRS will need to go through more formal procedures should they want information from your organization outside the annual filing submitted on the 990 form.

The form 872-C is essentially a permission slip. By signing and submitting the form *with the 1023* application the organization is telling the IRS that they can monitor the organization for a fixed period of time to make sure that they will be operating as a 501(c)(3).

Form **872-C**

(Rev. September 1998)

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Consent Fixing Period of Limitation Upon Assessment of Tax Under Section 4940 of the Internal Revenue Code

(See instructions on reverse side.)

OMB No. 1545-0056

To be used with Form 1023. Submit in duplicate.

Under section 6501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, and as part of a request forganization named below be treated as a publicly supported organization under section 509(a)(2) during an advance ruling period,	iled with Form 1023 that the section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) or
(Exact legal name of organization as shown in organizing document) ar (Number, street, city or town, state, and ZIP code)	District Director of Internal Revenue, or Assistant Commissioner (Employee Plans and Exempt Organizations)
(Number, street, city or town, state, and ZIP code)	(Employee Plans and Exempt Organizations)
consent and agree that the period for assessing tax (imposed under section 49 tax years in the advance ruling period will extend 8 years, 4 months, and 15 d year.	940 of the Code) for any of the 5 ays beyond the end of the first tax
However, if a notice of deficiency in tax for any of these years is sent to the expires, the time for making an assessment will be further extended by the nuprohibited, plus 60 days.	organization before the period mber of days the assessment is
Ending date of first tax year(Month, day, and year)	
SINFIEDV	
Name of organization (as shown in organizing document)	Date
Officer or trustee having authority to sign	Type or print name and title
Signature ▶	
For IRS use only	
District Director or Assistant Commissioner (Employee Plans and Exempt Organizations)	Date
By ►	

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see page 7 of the Form 1023 Instructions.

Cat. No. 16905Q

PROCEDURAL CHECKLIST

The procedural checklist is to help make sure that everything for the application is included. It will speed up the review process if the IRS receives everything it needs the first time.

It is important to carefully read through the checklist and make sure that you have all the materials. If something is missing it can delay your entire review process by weeks—sometimes months.

In addition to what is listed in the procedural checklist also make sure that you have:

◆ Articles of Incorporation from the state of Missouri

These articles should have two pages. The first will be the actual articles with the Secretary of State's seal stamped on it. The second page needs to include the purpose and dissolution clauses discussed on page 27. Not including these two clauses with the Articles of Incorporation is one of the most common reasons an application is delayed.

◆ The most current (adopted, signed, and dated) bylaws of the organization

Be certain that the page of your bylaws with the dates and signatures is included in the copy of the bylaws that you send. If they are not included the review process will be delayed.

Supporting materials as requested in the 1023 application such as advertisements and brochures that the organization has used in its course of business

There are several sections in the application where it might be necessary to provide additional information. Go through each part of the application and make sure you are including all the information the IRS is asking for.

 Schedules (if your organization needs to file a schedule) ♦ Forms 1023, 872-C, 8718

These are the actual applications. The 1023 is the 501(c)(3) application, the 872-C is the permission form for the advanced ruling, and the 8718 is the bill. **Don't forget to include your check.**

◆ Make sure the Employee ID Number is on the front of the 1023 application

It is important to carefully read through the checklist and make sure that you have all the materials. If something is missing it can delay your entire review process by weeks—sometimes months.

Procedural Checklist

Make sure the application is complete.

If you do not complete all applicable parts or do not provide all required attachments, we may return the incomplete application to your organization for resubmission with the missing information or attachments. This will delay the processing of the application and may delay the effective date of your organization's exempt status. The organization may also incur additional user fees.

Have you . . .

 Attached Form 8718 (User Fee for Exempt Organization Determination Letter Request) and the appropriate fee?
 Prepared the application for mailing? (See Where To File addresses on Form 8718.) Do not file the application with your local Internal Revenue Service Center.
 Completed Parts I through IV and any other schedules that apply to the organization?
 Shown the organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN)? a. If your organization has an EIN, write it in the space provided. b. If this is a newly formed organization and does not have an Employer Identification Number, obtain an EIN by telephone. (See Specific instructions, Part I, Line 2, on page 3.)
 Described your organization's specific activities as directed in Part II, line 1, of the application?
 Included a conformed copy of the complete organizing instrument? (See Specific Instructions, Part I, Line 10, on page 3.)
 Had the application signed have no of the following?
 a. An officer or trustee who is authorized to sign (e.g., president, treasurer); or b. A person authorized by a power of attorney (Submit Form 2848, or other power of attorney.)
 Enclosed financial statements (Part IV)?
 a. Current year (must include period up to within 60 days of the date the application is filed) and 3 preceding years.
b. Detailed breakdown of revenue and expenses (no lump sums).
c. If the organization has been in existence less than 1 year, you must also submit proposed budgets for 2 years showing the amounts and types of receipts and expenditures anticipated.

Note: During the technical review of a completed application, it may be necessary to contact the organization for more specific or additional information.

Do not send this checklist with the application.

CONCLUSION -- ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

We hope that you have found this guidebook helpful in understanding the process your organization should follow in pursuit of a 501(c)(3) designation.

As part of the electric cooperative's ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life for all Missourians, Associated Electric Cooperative has created a series of resource materials related to fund-raising for not-for-profit organizations.

Through a public-private partnership arrangement, the following resources are available from either of these contacts:

Mark Woodson, Associated Electric Cooperative Inc., Box 754, Springfield, MO 65801-0754, (417) 881-1204, e-mail: mwoodson@aeci.org, or John Gulick, Missouri Department of Health, CHART, Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570, (573) 751-6750, (FAX) 573-526-7646, e-mail: gulicj@mail.health.state.mo.us

1. Mobilizing Community Resources

This publication was written by a team from the Nebraska Community Foundation, including Vicki Luther and Milan Wall of the Heartland Center for Leadership Development and Paul Strawhecker. The publication covers topics such as:

-Organizing an ad hoc committee

-Identifying community priorities

-Building community consensus

-Tapping local resources

-Making your case

-Marketing your plan

2. The Local Foundation Vision Video

A two-and-a-half-hour program produced by Associated Electric Cooperative with segments on:

- -The history and growth of community foundations
- -The steps to creating a community foundation
- -Three models of community foundations
- -Panel discussion talking about the unique opportunities provided by a local community foundation

3. Capital Campaign Implementation

This publication was written by Paul Strawhecker, a nationally recognized fund-raising consultant, and covers such topics as:

-Components of a development program

-The roles of board, volunteers and staff

-Should you use a consultant?

-The role of a feasibility study

-Campaign overview and plan

-Organizing the campaign solicitation process

4. Development Assessment and Planning

This publication will cover the following topics:

-Creating a development program

-Annual campaign plan and implementation

- -Coordination of capital campaigns
- -Inventory of current fund-raising efforts
- -Creating and maintaining a bequest program
- -Balancing your short- and long-term development efforts

If you would like to receive a copy of any of these resources or additional copies of "Creating a 501(c)(3)", please contact Mark Woodson at the address listed above or Sharon Gulick:

Sharon Gulick, Manager Office of Business Information Missouri Dept. Economic Development P.O. Box 118 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Phone: 573/751-4892 Fax: 573/526-2416

web: http://www.MissouriDevelopment.org

Ordering IRS Tax Forms:

1. Call (703) 321-8020

- 2. Contact the IRS Website at: http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/
- 3. For FTP forms go to ftp.irs.ustreas.gov
- 4. Fax Forms through your Fax machine, dial (703) 487-4160.

Missouri Resources

Secretary of State

This office can answer questions about incorporating in the state of Missouri as a not-for-profit and provide the applications and amendment forms. There are four sites in Missouri:

Missouri State Information Center

600 W. Main / PO Box 778

Jefferson City, MO 65102

(573) 751-2359 or 751-4544

Wainwright State Office Building
111 N. 7th Street, Room 225

St. Louis, MO 63101

(314) 340-7490

Springfield State Office Building
149 Park Central Square, Room 1019
Springfield, MO 65806
(417) 895-6330

Kansas City State Office Building
615 E. 13th Street, 5th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64106
(816) 889-2925

Forms are also available on the Secretary of State's Website: http://mosl.sos.state.mo.us/forms/sosforms.html

Employer Identification Numbers

If your corporation needs an Employer Identification Number (EIN) an application may be obtained and sent to the address listed below. This application may also be made over the telephone by calling the number listed after the address. An EIN is required for all 501(c)(3) applications regardless of whether your corporation has employees.

Attention: Entity Control Stop 57A 2306 E. Bannister Road Kansas City, MO 64131 (816) 926-5999

Internal Revenue Service

The application for the 501(c)(3) (Form 1023 and others) and all supporting documents must be sent to the address below (with the appropriate fee).

Internal Revenue Service P.O. Box 192 Covington, KY 41012-0192

Best wishes to your not-for-profit organization.